



## Michael Rodgers

August 2, 2013

Michael Albert Rodgers, 65, of Cape Girardeau, MO died Friday, August 02, 2013 at his home. He was born February 27, 1948 in Cape Girardeau, MO to Albert Lee and Wiley Bernice Gilliland Rodgers. He married the former Jo Willard. She survives. Michael was a 1966 graduate of Cape Central High School and attended Southeast Missouri State University. He had a compassion for homeless animals and was an avid Cardinal baseball fan. He was a pilot for the Canal Barge Co. of New Orleans, LA. becoming a captain at the young age of 31. Survivors include : Jo Rodgers of Cape Girardeau, MO Son - Todd (Cabrina) Rodgers, Cape Girardeau, MO Son - Adam (Deidre) Rodgers, Cape Girardeau, MO Son - Jason (Elizabeth) Rodgers, Cape Girardeau, MO Daughter - Priscilla (David) Schnur, Cape Girardeau, MO Grandchild - Paige (Jesse) Miller, Vicenza, Italy Grandchild - Michael Rodgers, Cape Girardeau, MO Grandchild - Shawn Owens, Cape Girardeau, MO Grandchild - Sylvia Schnur, Cape Girardeau, MO Grandchild - Cash Rodgers, Cape Girardeau, MO Great Grandchild - Beth Ann Miller Great Grandchild - Blayne Miller Sister - Janie (Rob) Nicholas, Jackson, MO Sister - Dixie (Leo) Hoxworth, Conway, AR Four nieces and two nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents. Friends may call 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Monday, August 05, 2013 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home in Cape Girardeau. A graveside funeral service will be at 11:00 AM Tuesday, August 06, 2013 at Lorimier Cemetery located on Caruthers St. in Cape Girardeau. Burial will be at Lorimier Cemetery in Cape Girardeau. On Mike's behalf,

memorial contributions may be given to Tony LaRussa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) PO Box 30215, Walnut Creek, CA. 94598. Ford & Sons Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

GJ

“ Jo and entire Rodgers Family .. I was so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. Will keep the Rodgers Family in prayers. God Bless You..Genetha

Genetha Johnson - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Jo, I was so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. He was such a great guy! Please accept my sincere sympathy! Take care of yourself! Sally

Sally Wright Metz - July 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

NG

“ Jo, we were so sorry to learn of Mike's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your entire family during this difficult time. Although we're no longer close by - please don't hesitate to call or email if there is anything that we can do. Our sincere condolences, Nancy & Stanley Grand

Nancy & Stanley Grand - July 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ Mike and I were great friends, especially when we were at Franklin School. My condolences to all his family and may he rest in peace.

Paul D. Sander - June 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Another classmate gone too soon. Prayers to the family.

Linda Lindy Suedekum - June 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

NB

“ We are going to miss Mike, even those of us who have not seen him in quite a while. My three uncles filled several niches in my life. Willie built my Pinewood Derby car.. Bill introduced me to hunting and pickled eggs. Mike was the youngest and hippest, and definitely had the best hair. He was always very fashionable, which struck me as a funny thing for a barge captain. He was the first man I remember in Cape to wear Sperry Topsider deck shoes. When I asked him about it, he said everywhere you walk on a riverboat is slippery, so his deck shoes were a fashion statement, but not just a fashion statement. Mike was a voracious reader. When I would visit Mike and Jo on New Madrid Street, I would look through the hundreds of books he had in the bedroom, and would read the things he had highlighted, things that were important to him. I just wish I could download all that knowledge from him to me. Mike was the cool uncle with the dirt bike and the black Norton Commando motorcycle. He took me on a ride one day, when the Commando was running, out Big Bend road north of Cape. That may be what started my curious love affair with eccentric motorcycles that carries on to this day. I have a black Triumph in the garage now, and will always think of Uncle Mike when I look at it and ride it. Mike also had a temper, which is a bad thing when you have an old British motorcycle. I remember the story when he picked up one of the kids from school, and the Norton would not re-start. He kicked and kicked and it would not start. He finally got it started, but only after he had flung a perfectly good motorcycle helmet across the parking lot as an offering to the gods of internal combustion. Jo and Mike gave me my first car, a ♦66 VW Microbus with a blown engine and "Scott City Bakery" still visible under the green re-paint. That started me down another rabbit hole of curious automotive relationships that persists to this day. I still peruse web sites, window-shopping for old VW busses, and I think of Mike. Mike was another branch on the family tree who helped build the country, and keep it running. Our family has made the shoes, cleaned the clothes, kept the phone lines humming, driven the trucks, prepared the documents, and Mike hauled the oil and coal and gravel that lit the lights and built the roads. We had our very own barge captain, and I think that♦s

*pretty cool. A better known riverboat pilot remarked that while working on the river "in that brief, sharp schooling, I got personally and familiarly acquainted with about all the different types of human nature that are to be found in fiction, biography, or history." That pilot was Mark Twain, and I think he might have met Uncle Mike. Jo and family, so sorry for your loss, but thanks for sharing with us all these years. Uncle Mike, we are going to miss you, buddy.*

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**Nephew Kevin Bullock** - May 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

ML

“*Priscilla & Family, We are so sorry for your loss. You all are in our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Mike & Becky Latham** - May 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

NB

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**Nephew Kevin Bullock** - May 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ *When you get a chance, think of Mike Rodgers when you read the lyrics and listen to Van Morrison's "Into the Mystic". I just ran across this, and it seems so appropriate for Mike. You can read and listen on YouTube. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVAnlke\\_xUY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVAnlke_xUY)*

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**Kevin Bullock** - May 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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**Kevin Bullock** - May 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ *Michael, my classmate will always be in my memories as the classmate who was always smiling. Love, Revella*

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**Revella Booker Pugh** - May 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ *So sorry for your loss, Jo.*

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**Sally Bierbaum Dirks** - May 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TP

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you in this time sadness. I'm deeply sorry for your loss.*

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**Toni Pettet** - May 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ *JO, You and your family are in my prayers.*

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**Regina Jones** - April 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ *To Jo, Todd, Adam, Priscilla, Jason and all your families, we are so very sorry for your loss. With Mike being gone it sure leaves a big, empty hole in your lives. Peace and God bless to all. Love, Judy and Herb.*

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**Judy and Herbert Graetz** - April 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ *Dear Jo ~ After all these many, many years I had no idea you and Mike were still together after such a bumpy start during high school days. Congratulations on your long marriage, many children and grandchildren, and, of course, my condolences to you and family on your loss. Thinking of you with fondness and sweet memories.  
Kathy*

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**Kathryn Carney** - April 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

NM

“ *Hi Jo--So sorry to hear about Mike's passing. He kept me in stitches in homeroom with his antics and was a great guy. We had many a long talk and I know he loved you very much. You and the family are in my thoughts NOrma Mullins*

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**Norma (Robbison) Mullins** - April 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ Jo, I was so sorry to hear of your loss. I always remember how kind Mike was to me. Prayers for you and your family. Kathy

Kathy Grant Nichols - April 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ So sorry Jo. RIP Mike.

Don Wareing - April 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ My thoughts and prays are with all of you. So sorry for your loss.

Margaret Barks Austin - March 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Mike, Jo & children, you were my neighbors for many years. Enjoyed knowing you all & having you for the great neighbors that you were. Jim & I hated it when you moved. Mike always was so friendly with his robust personality, eager to help if he could. Jo & kids, my sympathies are with you. God Bless you. Bessie Crites

Bessie Crites - March 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ My thoughts are with all of you.

Susan Welker - March 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Mike always had his way of doing things. He had a good full life. The next pet of ours that goes to heaven i will tell them to hunt up Mike i know he will watch out for them. My prayers go out to Jo and their family.

Dixie Hoxworth - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM